

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

The Ornithology of Chester County, Pennsylvania. By Frank L. Burns.

This little book of 122 pages, from the pen of Mr. Frank L. Burns, who has done so much work in this country and published so much about it, is a complete summary to the date of publication of what has been learned about the birds which have been found there. 247 species and subspecies are treated in the text, their status and times of migration given, and the breeding times of those which remain to breed are stated. 16 species are regarded as hypothetical. There are 26 resident species, 72 summer resident species, making 98 breeding species. There are 26 winter visitants, 75 transient visitants, 42 stragglers, and 6 have been extirpated. There are 21 half-tone plates, which add to the interest of this book. We note some typographical errors (what publication is free from them), but they do not detract from the value of the work.

L. J.

Birds of Eastern Canada. By P. A. Taverner.

This is Memoir 104, No. 3, Biological Series, Geological Survey of Canada. Department of Mines. There are 221 pages of the text and 50 colored plates by F. C. Hennessey, illustrating 104 species. The index brings the number of pages up to 297. The quality of the colored plates shows that we have another successful artist in the field. Mr. Taverner has departed from the beaten paths in his presentation of the material of the list in a manner which seems to the reviewer worthy of study. In it the species are treated as the unit, with subspecies as variants from that unit. Whatever may be said about the inconvenience of this method, because it does not wholly conform to the 1910 edition of the Check-List of North American Birds, the fact that the species is actually the unit biologically can hardly be questioned. The exact variant is given, where any occurs, in a special paragraph, the heading of which is in display type. The argument for this method is that it avoids the prevalent tendency of these days to elevate a variant—subspecies—to the rank of a species.

L. J.